

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the title of the application as follows:

METHOD ~~AND DEVICE~~ FOR DETERMINING THE VOLUME OF A LIQUID SAMPLE

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 4 on page 7 of the Specification with the following replacement paragraphs:

~~The methods of the invention are provided according to the features of independent claim 1. The devices of the invention are provided according to the features of the independent claim~~
15. In one embodiment, there is provided a method for determining the volume of a dispensed liquid sample, comprising the steps of providing a volume of a diluent in a container; dispensing a liquid sample into said diluent in the container; mixing the dispensed liquid sample with said diluent in the container; staining of said mixture in the container by adding a chromophoric indicator; measuring the optical absorption of said stained mixture in the container; and determining the volume of the dispensed liquid sample by correlating said measured optical absorption of the mixture with the optical absorption of a test sample that has an exactly defined concentration of the same chromophoric indicator, wherein the chromophoric indicator to stain the mixture of sample liquid and diluent is formed by complexing indicator ions with chromogenic ligands comprising the liquid sample.

In another embodiment, there is provided a method for determining a residual volume of a liquid in a sample holder, which had been provided with a liquid and from which a part of the liquid has been removed, so that only said residual volume of the liquid remains in the sample holder, the method comprising the steps of adding a chromophoric indicator to said liquid to achieve a specific concentration of said indicator and thereby specific staining of the liquid; removing a part from said stained liquid in the sample holder; adding a diluent to the stained residual volume of the liquid; measuring the optical absorption of the diluted residual volume of the liquid; and determining the residual volume of the liquid by correlating the measured optical absorption of the diluted residual volume of the liquid with the optical absorption of a test sample that has the same specific concentration of the chromophoric indicator, wherein the chromophoric indicator to stain the liquid is formed by complexing indicator ions with chromogenic ligands.

Additional and/or refining features arise from the dependent claims.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 22 on page 9 of the Specification with the following replacement paragraph:

~~Most pigments are only suitable for a specific range of solvents due to their solubility.~~ By complexing the indicator ion with a suitable auxiliary ligand, the indicator ion can be brought into solution in a suitable concentration in any desired solvent or mixture of solvents. For example, iron(III) ions can be brought into solution in nonpolar solvents with 2,4-pentane dione as an $[\text{Fe}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_7\text{O}_2)_3]$ complex. A wide palette of derivatives is accessible from 2,4-pentane dione, such as, for example, pentane-2,4-dione-1,5-diol, from which the solubility of the iron complex in any desired solvent can be adjusted. In the well, an auxiliary ligand is either quantitatively suppressed by a more chromogenic ligand and/or the complexed indicator ion is reduced by an oxidation number through a redox reaction, which allows the quantitative formation of a stronger complex with the chromogen ligand. Care must be taken that the absorption spectrum of the auxiliary ligands does not overlap with that of the chromophoric complex.